

SYKES REGULARS

1ST BATTALION 20TH INF

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LZ LIZ, VIETNAM

March
February 5, 1970

THE 515 YIELDS A SUBMACHINEGUN, TWO RIFLES, AND TWO VC TO CHARLIE CO.

Prompt reaction to intelligence and the enthusiastic cooperation of two Hoi Chanh enabled Charlie Co.'s 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon to capture a ChiCom submachinegun and two AK44s this week. The eight soldiers also detained two prominent VC in an extensive operation in the 515 Valley that included a tense confrontation with a VC antipersonnel mine.

The afternoon of February 25th, the squad was trucked from Liz to Mo Duc on information that two VC there were willing to Chieu Hoi to the Allies. SSG Nguyen Hoa, the battalion's interpreter, accompanied the squad to the village. He contacted the two Hoi Chanh who joined the squad, and the contingent then moved to Nui Dat to set up in an ambush location for the night.

On further intelligence from higher, the men moved out at first light the next morning to intercept a group of VC who were to hold a meeting south of Highway 515. They crossed the highway and were moving across a series of rice paddies when one of the Hoi Chanh spotted a VC near a small hamlet.

"He shouted to the VC to 'dung Lai,' but he kept on going. We fired some warning shots, and the VC turned himself in," said SGT Dan Hanna (Goshen, Ind.), the squad's leader.

PFC Jim Robertson (Brooklyn, Mich.) moved to the other side of the hooches with the other Hoi Chanh and spotted another VC running out of the ville. After the same sequence of "dung lai" and warning shots, the 2nd VC turned himself in. The squad then moved on to the road sweeping east.

They soon came upon a bunker well concealed in a bamboo thicket. One of the Hoi Chanh entered the bunker and after five minutes emerged with a ChiCom submachinegun and two bolt-action AK44s wrapped in plastic. The squad then continued its sweep, running short patrols into the treelines off the highway.

"The Hoi Chanh were taking us down a trail in the brush toward another bunker when the one walking point spotted some wire leading to a firing device buried right in front of him. It was hooked up to a mine hidden in the weeds and facing down the trail directly at us," explained Hanna.

After disarming the mine, the squad proceeded to the bunker and confiscated some VC anti-American propaganda.

(CHARLIE CO. cont. page 3)

BRAVO GETS TWO WEAPONS, VC



In two very similar operations this week, Bravo Co.'s 2nd and 3rd platoons wounded one VC, killed another, and captured an enemy carbine and AK47.

Early Friday morning, the 3rd Platoon's 1st squad was involved in contact enroute to its blocking position. The men had moved south of Tap An Nam, just west of the Cau River, and started trailing west to east to set up a blocking position for a sweep by the 1st Platoon toward the ville.

"Our point man, an RF, entered a wooded area and walked right into three armed VC. We opened up and pursued them. However, we didn't find anything then, so we left half our squad there as a first blocking force," explained SSG Paul McNeary (Aberdeen, S.D.) the platoon sergeant.

Moving to its planned position to the north, the other half of the element encountered another group of VC that attempted to evade under the squad's fire. The men wounded and detained one of the fleeing VC.

Meanwhile, at the site of the morning's initial contact, the first blocking force found an AK47, a full magazine, a pistol belt, and a hand grenade.

Early the next morning, the 2nd Platoon's 3rd Squad moved out from the North Bridge also enroute to a blocking position, this one just east of Mo Duc. The squad's mission was to intercept any VC who might evade and planned sweep by Delta Co.

The men were a bit late getting into position because the RF soldier walking point spotted a VC moving to his front. The squad engaged the enemy soldier, killed him as he attempted to evade, and recovered the carbine he was carrying as well as two full magazines, a flashlight, pistol belt, and two hand grenades.

SSG RIDGE IS NCO OF THE WEEK

Staff Sergeant Thomas J. Ridge of Erie, Pa., is the SYKES REGULARS' NCO of the Week. He has been with Bravo Co. for four months now and is currently working out of the Duc Pho compound in an advisory capacity with the 169th Regional Forces Co. there.

A Cum Laude graduate of Harvard College with a major in government, he attended the Dickenson School of Law in Carlisle, Pa., before entering the service.

He went on to Ft. Benning's NCO School where he earned his rocker, graduating first in his class.

R & R INFO

Effective 25 Feb 70, civilian clothes will be authorized for wear on R&R to Hong Kong. This is the last site to lift uniform requirement; therefore civilian clothes are authorized for wear to all R&R sites. Commanders will ensure that only civilian clothing in good taste is worn. Personnel who elect to wear the uniform to an R&R must ensure that it is neat and complete.

There has been an increase of personnel reporting to the R&R processing centers at both DaNang and Cam Ranh Bay who do not have the required Medical Certificate for R&R processing to Sidney, Australia. The R&R Processing Center has no capability to perform the medical inspections necessary for issuance of the Medical Certificate. Australia-bound R&R personnel must have in their possession the required Medical Certificate upon reporting for processing. Required Medical Certificate must be completed 72 hours prior to departure from RVN. Required Medical Certificates for R&R personnel manifested to Sydney, Australia may be acquired through unit dispensary. Preparation of each individual serviceman for R&R processing is a direct responsibility of the unit. The Government of Australia views immunization violations seriously. Specific complaints are:

- a) Cholera and Smallpox shots not up to date.
- b) Shot records mutilated and unreadable.
- c) Entries not stamped.

In the future, personnel arriving at the R&R in-processing centers with the above stated discrepancies will be returned to their units.

A WORLD RECORD FOR CONTACT

LONDON—One hour, 35 minutes, and 40 seconds; two college students are claiming a world record for the longest kiss ever. They out-kissed twenty other couples in a University contest that helped raise money for old age pensioners. The contest rules said the couples could lean against something, but had to remain standing. The contest also helped Jenny and David get better acquainted. Said Jenny, "Before the kiss we were friends, now we are very good friends!"

FEBRUARY PROMOTIONS

To First Lieutenant:

Gary W. Bray—Quinto, Okla. (A Co.)

Franklin K. Nelson—Arlington, Tex. (C Co.)

To Staff Sergeant:

Bradford C. Johnson—Providence, R.I. (HHC)

Joseph R. Knuesel—St. Cloud, Minn. (D Co.)

Alphonza E. Jones—Bogota, N.J. (E Co.)

Leo A. Stagg—Whippany, N.J. (B Co.)

Clifford L. Cobb—Richmond, Calif. (A Co.)

Ronald S. Morgan—North Bend, Ore. (B Co.)

Charles H. McCurdy—Van Buren, Ark. (HHC)

James A. Shaner—Spencerville, Ohio (B Co.)

To Sergeant:

Joseph R. Wrzesinski—Chicago (A Co.)

Walter G. Edmonds—Chickasaw, Ala. (B Co.)

Larry E. Thompson—Pocahontas, Ark. (C Co.)

John Cline—Broadway, Va. (A Co.)

Jerry Groce—Worth, Mo. (C Co.)

Charles J. Thompson—Montgomery, W.Va. (B Co.)

Paul D. Norburg—Wyoming, Mich. (A Co.)

James Avedisian—Detroit (D Co.)

Michael D. Buell—Hamilton, Ohio (C Co.)

Carl Perry—Wedell, N.C. (B Co.)

Harold E. Thorpe—Bradenton, Fla. (HHC)

Edward M. Carr—Bristol, Conn. (HHC)

PAPERWORK FOR EXTENSIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED EARLY

Those personnel desiring to extend their tours with the battalion to obtain a 150-day drop for ETS must submit their paperwork in time for it to reach Division for approval at least 60 days prior to normal DEROS. This means that the paperwork must be completed on the company level at least 70-75 days prior to normal DEROS.

Those personnel desiring a six-month extension and change of assignment in RVN must submit their paperwork in time for it to reach Division for approval at least 90 days prior to normal DEROS. This means that the paperwork must be completed on the company level at least 100-105 days prior to normal DEROS.

BATTALION SUMMARY

FEB. 23

Recon accounted for the battalion's significant incidents on the 23rd while working in the Strip. Early in the morning, the platoon picked up two civilians for interrogation while sweeping from its ambush location. During the sweep the men searched a hooch and uncovered several enemy documents, a picture of Ho Chi Minh, and a National Liberation Front (NLF) flag.

Three hours later, the Little John element engaged and killed two VC who tried to hide in a well concealed spider hole in a hedgerow. More enemy documents were uncovered, and three more detainees found in the area were turned in for questioning.

FEB. 24

Bravo Co.'s 2nd Platoon, working with an element of PRUs, pursued and engaged two VC just west of the railroad berm north of Liz. The men killed one of the enemy, but the other two evaded.

FEB. 25

Alpha Co.'s 3rd Platoon, working past the Tra Cau River, two kilometers southeast of Liz, uncovered and searched a spider hole containing an automatic rifle magazine with ammo and a VC ID card. The man picked up a 25-year-old detainee found in the area.

FEB. 26

Charlie Co. extracted two Hoi Chanhs, uncovered a weapons cache, and detained two VC in an operation in the 515 Valley.

Alpha Co. found and destroyed an enemy tunnel that was approximately ten feet long with two additional branches.

FEB. 27

Bravo Co. wounded a VC and captured an AK47 near the village of Tap An Nam.

Alpha Co.'s 2nd Platoon detained four VC who attempted to evade a sweep by the PFs during the morning hours. The PFs had pursued six VC carrying weapons, just east of the Cau River. When Alpha picked up the VC, they had apparently stashed away their weapons.

In the afternoon, Alpha's 1st Platoon detained three civilians whose ID cards were fake, according to the National Police.

FEB. 28

Bravo's 2nd Platoon killed a VC and captured his carbine.

Delta Co. detained three civilians for questioning in the Strip, and Bravo's 3rd Platoon detained six.

MARCH 1

Working near OD Lake, Alpha Co.'s 2nd Platoon discovered a hooch constructed with VC nonchos. Inside were various medical tools, VC batteries, and documents. The hooch was believed to be a center for making booby traps.

CHARLIE CO. continued

A kilometer to the southeast, the squad came up with its last find of the operation—two ammo cans containing blasting caps, carbine and AK44 rounds, documents, and a pile of North Vietnamese currency.

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

Replacements:

HHC

SP/4 James A. Lightfoot—Gahanna, Ohio
PFC Ed Dorsey, III—Blythe, Calif.

A Co.

PFC Arthur F. Rosenow, III—Oconomowoc, Wisc.

B Co.

SGT Francis P. Gehlen—Torpenish, Wash.

SGT Steven J. Marsh—Holly, Mich.

PFC Donald R. Holm—Akron, Ohio

PFC Bobby J. Snelson—Waco, Tex.

C Co.

SGT Wayne D. Conley—Chicago

PFC Harold D. Hollifield—Marion, N.C.

PFC Armand P. Nault—Sturgeon Bay, Wisc.

D Co.

SGT George W. Jackson—Skokie, Ill.

PFC Jerry McKinney—Youngstown, Ohio

PFC James L. Mulka—Rogers City, Mich.

PFC Avery M. Nye, III—Loredo, Tex.

PFC Charles G. Rudolf—Green Bay, Wisc.

E Co.

PFC Bobby A. Rolett—Pensacola, Fla.

Departures:

HHC

MAJ Robert S. Neilson—Bellevue, Wash.

LLT Richard L. Gibson—Independence, Mo.

LLT Lowell G. Jones—Salem, Ore.

SSG Kenneth A. Nelson—Buena Park, Calif.

SP/5 Richard Montgomery—Hot Springs, Ark.

A Co.

SSG Clifford L. Cobb—Richmond, Calif.

SGT Thomas L. Frazier—Toledo, Ohio

D Co.

CFT James P. Whitaker—Baton Rouge, La.

SGT Charles Ross—Opelika, Ala.

SGT Thomas C. Seegar—Chesterfield, Mo.

SP/4 Willie F. Hardaway—Pensacola, Fla.

SP/4 Grafton F. Sweat—Pittsburgh, Pa.

E Co.

LLT Ronald L. Reese—Waco, Tex.

HEART TROUBLE AND ITS CURE

By Your Chaplain, Eugene W. Scott

Did you know that:

1) One out of every four who read this will die of heart disease?

2) Heart trouble causes twice as many deaths as cancer?

There is no quick cure for heart disease, although by doing only as much work as the heart can carry, many can lead a long and useful life.

Suppose you have a bad heart. How would you like to have Dr. Prim to know all about it, but never tell you? Instead he talks about your nice rosy cheeks and says you are the picture of health.

You may think he is a fine battalion surgeon, but someday you will find out that you have been a fool to listen to his deceiving flattery.

It is not very pleasant to tell people the truth about themselves. You may antagonize them—at least until they find out that you have done them a great favor. That's why you may not want to know the real facts about your heart, but Dr. Prim and I feel we have to tell you:

Did you know that

1) There is a far greater heart trouble?

2) It is always fatal?

"Thy heart is not right with God"

(Acts 8:21)

"Fear not them which kill the body—but rather fear him which is able to destroy both body and soul in hell."

(Matthew 10:28)

3) There is a complete 100% cure for spiritual heart trouble. God simply gives you a new heart.

"A new heart will I give you...and take away the stony heart out of your flesh."

(Ezekial 36:26)

4) There is nothing you can do to buy this cure. God gives this new heart to everyone who admits he has a sinful heart and accepts Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as his Savior.

5) Christ died as payment for sin. His blood can wash away the guilt from your heart and make it pure and acceptable to God. His Spirit then enters your heart and makes it willing to fight evil and serve God.

IS YOUR HEART RIGHT WITH GOD?

THE FACT: HEART TROUBLE

"The troubles of my heart are enlarged. O bring thou me out of my distresses."

THE CAUSE: SIN

"Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions."

THE CURE: GOD'S MERCY

"Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted."

THE PRESCRIPTION: REPENTANCE

"O Lord, pardon mine iniquity, for it is great."

THE RESULT: A HEALTHY HEART

"What man is he that feareth the Lord? His soul shall dwell at ease."

(Psalms 25:17,7,16,11,12,13)

—Attend your Spiritual Aid Station, or get on your knees and look into your heart. What do you see?

A GOOD JOB ON THE QMI

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur F. Fischer F. Fischer gives his special commendation for the battalion's performance during the recent QMI. All the companies fared much better than average on the inspection, producing a mean score of 87 on a passing score of 70. The breakdown by company is as follows:

HHC--90

A---92

B---81

C---83 (on Liz at the time)

D---88

E---88

CHANGES OF COMMAND

Three of the battalion's companies had changes of command recently. CPT Adrian M. Fitzpatrick (Midway, W.Va.), who had been the CO of HHC for almost six months, has assumed command of Delta Co., replacing CPT James F. Whitaker (Baton Rouge, La.), now working at Brigade S-3.

CPT Richard RW Holmes (Columbia, S.C.) left Echo Co. to command HHC, and 1LT Curtis D. Johnson (New Orleans, La.) left his post as Delta's executive officer to become the CO of Echo Co.

McKissic's Corner

The Army needs more than 2,000 men to fill its Smokey the Bear hats at the Basic Training centers throughout the country.

A reenlistment for the six week Drill Sergeant School offers all the prestige that goes with being a DI plus \$30 extra per month superior performance pay, extra uniforms, free laundry service, and an 18-month stabilized tour.

Also, the top grad in his class at DI school qualifies for a one grade promotion to as high as E6.

RE = 3/8
\$ UP